

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 64, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

In a beaker having an inner volume of 5 L, 1 L of purified water was placed and then stirred and retained by heating at a temperature of 60°C. Then, 2 L of an aqueous solution having 114.5 parts by weight of zinc sulfate (made by Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.) and 17.6 parts by weight of sodium silicate powder (made by Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd.) mixed therein and an ammonia aqueous solution were added dropwise to the purified water heedfully so as to retain the pH value at 7.5. A complex oxide hydrate containing zinc and silicate (B1) (mass ratio of zinc and silicon: ~~85/45~~ 90/10) was obtained by separating the resultant precipitate by filtration, washing the separated precipitate, and drying the washed precipitate at 120°C for six hours.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

A water-absorbent resin composition (9) was obtained by following the procedure of Example 1 while changing the complex oxide hydrate of zinc and silicon to the complex oxide hydrate of zinc and aluminum (B2) (mass ratio of zinc and aluminum: ~~90/40~~ 85/15) obtained in Referential Example 11. The water-absorbent resin composition (9) was tested in the same manner as in Example 1. The results are shown in Table 2, Table 3, and Table 4.